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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
09/818,612	03/28/2001	Hideki Kobayashi	205266US2SRD	1753
22850	7590 03/10/2005		EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.			COLON, CATHERINE M	
1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	•		3623	
			DATE MAILED: 03/10/200	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary Cambridge Cambr			Application No.	Applicant(s)			
C. Michaelle Colon Color Se23 Color	\sqrt{g}		09/818,612	KOBAYASHI, HIDEKI			
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Extensions of tem may be available used the growtons of 37 CFR 1.78(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensions of tem may be available used the growtons of 37 CFR 1.78(a), in no event, however, may a reply be timely filed Extensions of tem reply separated above, the maximum of 37 CFR 1.78(a), a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (20) days, a reply within the statutory review the part of the principle of the reply will, by additional to become ARANGONED (SS 12.5 g. 13.3). If No part of the reply separated above, the maximum statutory principle using year and it epicks (50) MCMP18 from the mailing date of this communication. Fallium to reply within the set of extended precision for the part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication, even if fromly filed, may reduce any example and part of the communication. 1)	1	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit			
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DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Restriction Requirement in response to the communication received on March 28, 2001. Claims 1-25 are currently pending in this application.

Election/Restrictions

- 2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, 20, drawn to determining if a product use period is less than or equal to the half life of the part with the longest life, classified in class 705, subclass 8.
 - II. Claims 2, 10, 21, 25, drawn to determining the cost ratio of parts to a whole product and determining worth degradability, classified in class 705, subclass 10.
 - III. Claims 4, 12, 22-24, drawn to determining maintenance replacement of parts and proposing inexpensive maintenance, classified in class 705, subclass 7.
 - IV. Claims 5-7, 13-15, 18, drawn to determining the cost ratio of parts to a whole product and the environmental load ratio, classified in class 705, subclass 7.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together
in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are

shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as conducting cost analysis on the different parts for a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as conducting maintenance replacement analysis for the different parts of a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions I and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as conducting environmental load analysis on the parts of a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and III are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention III has separate utility such as conducting maintenance replacement analysis for the different parts of a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions II and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as conducting environmental load analysis on the parts of a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention IV has separate utility such as conducting environmental load analysis on the parts of a product. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, the search required for Group I is not required for Group III, the search required for Group IV, the search required for Group II is not required for Group III, the search required for Group III is not required for Group III is not required for Group IV, and the search required for Group III is not required for Group IV, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Michelle Colon whose telephone number is 703-605-4251. The examiner can normally be reached Monday – Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

Art Unit: 3623

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached at 703-305-9643.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

703-872-9306 [Official Communications; including After Final

communications labeled "Box AF"]

703-746-7202 [For status inquiries, draft communication, labeled

"Proposed" or "Draft"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 7th floor receptionist.

March 4, 2005

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600